



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 27

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

July 9, 2004



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, Air Force Special Operations Command commander (left), hands over the 720th Special Tactics Group guidon to Col. Kenneth Rodriguez during the change of command here Wednesday.

Hurlburt holds 'special' change of command

Courtesy of AFSOC Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, presided over the 720th Special Tactics Group change of command ceremony in the 15th Aircraft Mobility Unit Hangar here, Wednesday.

Surrounded by a flight of 720th STG members, families and friends, Col. Kenneth Rodriguez assumed command from Col. Craig Rith.

"A ceremony doesn't get much better than starting off with the national anthem and the presentation of the Bronze Star," General Wooley said, after presenting Colonel Rith with another Bronze Star Medal.

General Wooley went on to say how commanders should constantly ask themselves if they've done

everything possible to prepare and train their people to face the challenges ahead, and that he believes Colonel Rith has done that and Colonel Rodriguez will continue to do so.

"Colonel Rodriguez has demonstrated his ability to lead and help win this war on terrorism," the general said. "He's no stranger to Special Operations...serving previously as commander of the 23rd and 24th Special Tactics Squadrons."

Now as the 720th STG commander, Colonel Rodriguez will be responsible for the training, support and worldwide deployment of battlefield Airmen to support a variety of Special Operations missions. The group provides Special Tactics Forces for worldwide deployment and assignment to regional unified com-

See **CHANGE**, Page 11

Spooky gunner completes 150th combat mission

By Capt. Denise Boyd
386th AEW Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – An aerial gunner assigned to the Air Force Special Operations Detachment here completed his 150th combat mission on the AC-130U Tuesday.

Additionally significant, the gunner, (name being withheld for security reasons) who's deployed from Hurlburt Field, is the first AC-130U crewmember assigned to the 4th Special Operations Squadron to reach this milestone event. He's also recently reached more than 1,000 combat flying hours since the squadron achieved initial operating capability in 1996.

"One hundred and fifty combat missions translates to a great number of MRE's (meals ready to eat) eaten, canvas cots slept on, and the personal sacrifice so many of our Airmen have made to get the mission done," said the AFSOD mission commander. "The sergeant is an integral part of every crew he flies on, and is vital to our mission."

When he first entered the Air Force, the sergeant was a weapons load crewmember stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and Osan Air Base, Korea. It was while he was stationed at Osan that he met an MH-53 gunner who's currently assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command. Conversations with the MH-53 gunner convinced the then senior airman that he wanted to cross train into the gun-

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News



Promotions

More than two dozen Hurlburt Field officers promoted to captain

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Feature



Hoopin' it up

Hundreds celebrate America's independence at the Soundside

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Sports



Good catch!

16th AMXS defeats 16th CES firefighters 12-2 in intramural softball.

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Weather

Weekend forecast

Friday – mostly sunny, High 91 Low 74

Saturday – isolated showers High 92 Low 75

Sunday – isolated showers High 92 Low 75

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day



Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Commander lauds base for outstanding support

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW Commander

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the men and women of the 16th Special Operations Wing for your continued and exceptional support of a number of recent events and milestones.

As you know, we recently played a leading role in honoring the former and incoming Air Force Special Operations Command commanders, Gen. (Sel) Paul Hester and Lt. Gen. (Sel) Michael Wooley during a change of command ceremony July 1 at Freedom Hangar. Your flawless efforts to plan and carry out this event, which saw attendance on

behalf of the Air Force Chief of Staff, ensured a fitting tribute to both of these great Air Force leaders.

Immediately following this event, we celebrated the birth of our nation at the base annual Sound of Independence Day celebration, July 2. This unique patriotic observance, open to the base and general public, provided an excellent opportunity to spend quality time with our Air Commandos and extended Emerald Coast families. Your willingness to embrace the Emerald Coast during this event also provided an excellent opportunity to say thanks to a grateful community that continues to provide critical support for our mission and Air Commando family.

Finally, I'd like to say "thanks" for your aggressive and persistent actions to cut base-wide incidents of drinking and driving. Your efforts have made a significant impact, decreasing our number of violations and increasing our "saves." You're obviously practicing "buddy care," and I encourage you to continue these very positive actions. As we continue enjoying the summer months with family and friends, remember to celebrate wisely, be careful and have fun.

I sincerely appreciate everyone's hard work in all of these areas outlined above and thank you for continuing to make Hurlburt Field the best Special Operations Wing in the world!

Operations Tempo warp speed ahead

By Capt. Kenneth Mercier
16th SOW MEO

Unless you've been living under a rock, you're aware that Hurlburt Field is a major player in the Global War on Terrorism.

Our operations tempo is moving at the speed of light. Personnel deployed are working, in many cases, seven days per week to the tune of 80-100 hours to ensure we're staying one step ahead of evildoers all over the world - most notably in the Middle East.

What's the pace like at home-station? You'll note, it's not much different. We're constantly training and preparing our troops to deploy and fight the nation's wars, often working 60-70 hours weekly and on the weekends.

When you combine the workload of home-station and deployments, something happens: the stress levels of the member's in the wing skyrocket.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that Ops Tempo was identified on the Wing Climate Assessment as an area of concern with the members of Hurlburt Field.

The questions then become: Why are we moving at this pace? And, what's being done to slow the pace

down to alleviate the stress of the members?

Sept. 11, 2001 is the main reason we're moving at such a fast pace. Fortunately, the United States has proven its air superiority in previous campaigns; we're the dominant force in the air, in the world.

Unfortunately, that means the wars of today are moving from conventional, to unconventional - more "specialized" tactics are needed to combat today's version of evil...enter Air Force Special Operations Command.

Perhaps a look at a comparison between a high Ops Tempo Air Combat Command base and Hurlburt Field will shed some light on how fast we're moving.

Let's look at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, a high Ops Tempo ACC base.

On average, over the course of a 15-month Air Expeditionary Force rotation cycle, 15-20 percent of their wing (4,000 personnel) is deployed, meaning, they have approximately 800 members deployed over a 15-month period.

Conversely, over the course of 12 months, Hurlburt Field will have, (take a deep breath before you read the next figure,) more than 3,000 out of its 6,000 personnel deployed.

As Special Ops, we don't have the luxury of being tasked every 15 months. We're constantly in-theater 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; many of those 3,000 are the same individuals, twice in the same calendar year.

So, the question becomes: What's being done about our Ops Tempo? One thing I can tell you is this: Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, is committed to people and to improving the quality of life of every member in this wing.

"The pace of operations has been a concern in this wing for several years," said Colonel Mannon, during the WCA out-brief. "Unfortunately, terrorism isn't going away, and Air Force Special Operations Command is going to continue to be called into action. But, we've got to take care of our people. It's my job to make sure that happens."

In a perfect world, it would be nice to just say, 'We're tapped out; we need a break.' However, it doesn't work that way.

What's needed are concrete numbers and factual evidence that we're near a breaking point. As you read this article, a highly detailed man-

See TEMPO, Page 11

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Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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Photography

Northwest Florida Daily News

Production Support

DUI Tracker

July 2 - July 8: 0 DUIs

This year: 23

DUIs for 2003: 54

Last DUI: 16th Component

Maintenance Squadron, June 30

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

Don't Drink and Drive. Call 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 535

16th OG...136

16th MSG...30

16th MXG...8

16th MDG...136

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of July 8.

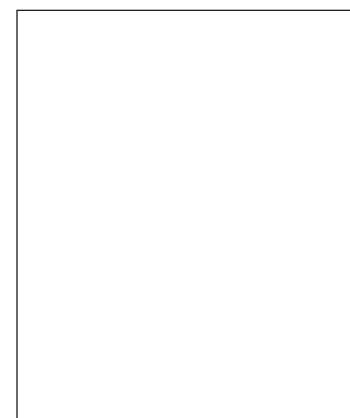
Congratulations to the 16th MDG, 16th OG and 16th SOW staff agencies for more than 120 days without receiving a DUI.



Hurlburt promotes 26 officers



Spotlight on...



Staff Sgt. Cynthia Porras

Rank/Duty Title: Staff Sergeant

Organization: 16th Medical Operations Squadron

Hometown: Coal Run, Ohio

Hobbies: Saltwater aquariums, crotcheting, going to the beach and fishing

Contribution to the mission:

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Porras is solely responsible for the overall success of the Occupational Health Program at Hurlburt Field. She seized control of a downwardly spiraling Hearing Conservation Program.

Her exceptional skills were instrumental in reversing a negative trend of no-show rates for hearing tests from 20 percent to less than four percent. Sergeant Porras' remarkable knowledge of the Hearing Conservation Program allowed her to educate more than 840 line personnel on prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, which greatly reduced work-related disorders.

Sergeant Porras is truly an outstanding performer and exemplifies what it means to be a Commando medic.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

the tight bond between crewmembers, and the incredible support of family and friends is what helps the sergeant through the more difficult parts of deploying.

"There was a great feeling of pride to know we were going after the people who had conducted a personal strike on the United States," the sergeant said. "There were about 100 of us living in less than desirable conditions, making the most of the experience. We couldn't e-mail, phone or

mail letters home for the first six weeks of the deployment...we only had each other – that made for a real bonding experience. Once they opened the phones up for use, some of us waited in line for six hours until a phone came free, to make a 10-minute phone call."

The AC-130U Spooky Gunship is armed with a 25mm gun, 40mm cannon, and a 105mm cannon. Its primary mission includes providing close air support, air interdiction of preplanned targets of opportunity and force protection for base defense. The gunners are responsible for pre and post-flight inspections, as well as loading and performing maintenance on any malfunctioning weapons systems. Gunners also serve in an aircraft protection capacity as scanners searching for threats from the ground and the air.

There are typically four gunners on a crew: one serves as the lead gunner, two more are on the 40mm, and 105mm, and the fourth serves as a scanner.

"Working the 105 mm is my favorite weapon, because it requires more manual interaction (than the 25mm and 40mm)," he explained. "Each 105mm round weighs approximately 45 pounds. On one memorable mis-

sion, we were flying over Afghanistan, providing fire support for our Navy counterparts conducting a direct action raid, he said. "They were being pursued by enemy vehicles, so we rolled in on the enemy vehicles and began to engage. It was the most shooting I had ever done...we ended up shooting more than 80 (of the) 105 (mm) rounds. It was such an adrenaline rush. After firing the rounds, my oxygen mask, gloves and flight suit were soaked in sweat. It wasn't until the engagement was over that I felt the cold from the altitude we were flying."

With a regular crew complement of 13, Spooky crewmembers must work in concert to put fire on a target. According to the sergeant, gunners are an integral part of the crew responsible for more than just shooting the guns.

"The 'crew' concept is strong, especially in Gunships," he said. "The 4th SOS puts a great deal of emphasis on crew resource management. Once we're no longer shooting, the gunner works as an additional scanner, looking for any triple A (anti-aircraft artillery) or missiles, and listens to the radios, assisting the rest of the crew by monitoring radio traffic from the ground party."

"It's hard to explain how you feel about a crew you've gone into combat with," said the AFSOD mission commander. "You're not only laying fire down on those below you, but you're taking fire too. You never forget what that's like."

Although the sergeant can feel satisfied with completing this many combat missions, he recognizes there are many more missions ahead of him.

"I didn't realize I was coming up on 150 combat missions, and more than 1022.3 flying hours," he said. "I know there are a lot more people from the squadron coming up to this milestone...we've all put in our time."

"I want to be on that crew, providing that support, making sure the guns are ready to fire helping keep our crew in the air and our fellow soldiers on the ground safe."

Photo by Capt. Denise Boyd

A 4th SOS gunner loads a 105mm round on the AC-130U Spooky Gunship.

GUNNER, Continued from Page 1

ner career field. After being assigned to the 4th Special Operations Squadron in November 1995, the sergeant completed initial qualification training at the central training facility for aircrew members and became a certified aerial gunner December 1996.

He conducted his first combat mission in 1997 over Bosnia. Since then, he's participated in combat missions in support of various operations in the former Yugoslavia and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"I think we provide a lot of comfort and safety for those ground forces who we're trying to protect," he said. "You can hear the reassurance and confidence in their voices when they're on the radios...they know we're there to support and protect them. The months immediately following 9/11 were a life-altering experience for me," he continued. "I was on the first rotation of AC-130s into Afghanistan in October 2001, and we were engaged in some extremely intense fighting."

Knowing the difference his aircraft and crew make to those on the ground,

919th welcomes newest citizen Commando

By Staff Sgt. Lena King

919th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

DUKE FIELD, Fla. – Col. Mark Kyle accepted command from Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill in a change-of-command ceremony June 6 at 10 a.m. here.

Maj. Gen. David Tanzi, 10th Air Force commander, presided over the event, which included the formation of the 919th Special Operations Wing. “General Stogsdill, when you walk down this stage today and give up command, one of the things that you probably want to know is, ‘did I leave it better than when I found it?’” General Tanzi said. “I will tell you...you have made a difference. You have made it better, and I salute you for that.”

General Tanzi recognized the accomplishments of General Stogsdill and the wing, noting their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism. He also presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor to the Airmen of the 919th SOW and the Legion of Merit to General Stogsdill.

The general’s tour here was filled with numerous firsts; the most notable was leading the wing during a record-breaking two years of activation in support of the GWOT.

After General Tanzi’s comments, General Stogsdill addressed the Airmen he had commanded for the last six years.

“I feel very privileged to have been the commander of the 919th for the last few years, but espe-

cially during the days and months following 9-11,” he said. “The folks in this hangar had everything to do with the successes of the 919th.”

General Tanzi then performed the change of command, and Colonel Kyle stepped up to the podium to thank his loved ones and special friends. Colonel Kyle then informed the Airmen about his personality and leadership style.

“I’m a man who loves his country, his family, his job and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers,” said Colonel Kyle. “(I am) Someone who places a commitment to safety at the front end of everything an organization does.”

“Someone who opts to do things the right way – not necessarily the easy way; someone who recognizes tradition, but embraces change when times demand it; someone who values loyalty and commitment above everything; and someone who believes that fun is a basic necessity of life,” Colonel Kyle said. “But, most importantly, someone who will work every day for you to give you what you need.”

Colonel Kyle assumes command of the 919th after completing an assignment as commander of the 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore. He began his career as a helicopter pilot and later switched to fixed-wing aircraft, flying various C-130 models.

Photo by Sandra Henry
Col. Mark Kyle, takes the stage during the 919th Special Operations Wing change of command ceremony June 6.

As commander of the 919th, Colonel Kyle will continue to lead Duke’s Airmen in providing and maintaining MC-130E and MC-130P Special Operations aircraft designed for covert operations. Both aircraft provide more than 60 percent of helicopter refueling training requirements to the U.S. Special Operations Command.

General Stogsdill leaves the Special Operations community behind to lead the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. He and his family will make Dobbins their new home.

Air Force uniform board releases results

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials recently released the results of the 96th Air Force Uniform Board held June 18 and 19.

The chief of staff approved a number of changes, affecting everything from cell phones to scarves.

Among the changes are:

- Establish a standardized Air Force physical training uniform
- Redesign the female lightweight blue jacket
- Authorize the lightweight blue jacket to be worn indoors
- Authorize, as an option, to have the Air Force symbol embroidered on the lightweight blue jacket
- Offer the A-line skirt as an optional item
- Redesign and revise maternity uniforms

■ Authorize the black scarf only with all Air Force uniforms, eliminating white, gray and olive drab options

■ Authorize conservative ornamentation on non-prescription sunglasses and eyeglasses

■ Authorize one small, black, nondescript personal digital assistant, pager or cellular phone at a time to be worn on the uniform belt

■ Allow females to wear small, black spherical earrings when in uniform

■ Allow black web belts or black riggers belts with nondescript buckles as an optional item with the battle dress uniform

■ Remove the requirement to wear a tie or tab with short-sleeved shirt or blouse while traveling on a commercial airline

■ Authorize wear of a backpack over both shoulders

■ Authorize only a solid-color black backpack with blue uniform combinations and solid black, olive drab or woodland camouflage backpack with battle dress uniforms

■ Redesign the security forces beret

■ Allow the wear of plain black conservative hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes with all female hair colors

■ Allow males to cleanly shave their heads or have military high-and-tight haircuts; females are not authorized to shave their heads or wear high-and-tight haircuts

More information about these and other uniform board decisions will be included in the next update of *Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Personal Dress and Appearance* being released this summer.

Questions should be addressed to the local military personnel flight.

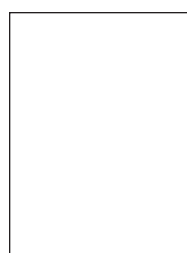
Look Who’s Talking:

“How do you feel about being deployed?”



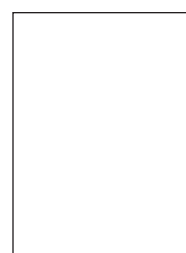
Airman Basic Kelly Lynch,
16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

“I can’t wait to be deployed. I think it will be an awesome experience.”



Airman 1st Class Dustin Thompson,
16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

“While I’m sure I’ll miss my family, it’s what most of us have signed up for. I’ll be proud to go do what I’ve been trained to do...keep ‘em flying.”



Airman Rachel Perko,
16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

“I’m excited about being deployed. I think it’ll be a really good experience.”

Meet the new Commander

Name/Rank:
Lt. Col. James D. Marsh

Organization:
16th Special Operations Squadron

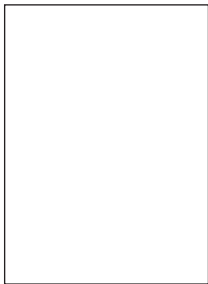
Hometown:
Vienna, W.Va.

Off-duty time is for:
Family, friends and fishing - at the same time if possible

Previous Assignment:
Operations Officer at the 16th Special Operations Squadron.

Organizational Goals:
Preserve the legacy of Spectre as a world-class organization and national asset in peace and war. Deter and if needed destroy our adversaries - Any Time, Any place.

Work Philosophy:
Leave your organization better than you found it. Find something you believe in and fight for it.



Disney visits Hurlburt Field

Blast over to the Mini Mall for "Disney Day" hosted by Information, Tickets and Travel Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Awards for the top three coloring submissions for the children's Disney Coloring Contest will be presented at 11:30 a.m.

People are invited for cake, punch and special offers – such as the Monday \$5 discount on four-day Park Hopper tickets and special rates for military personnel on Disney fall cruises.

On "Disney Day" people can register to win a package deal: one three-night/four-day stay, four one-day tickets to

Arabian Nights dinner theater and four one-day Disney tickets to the park of the winner's choice. Drawing will be at 1 p.m. and winner doesn't have to be present to win.

The deadline for the children's Disney Coloring Contest is Tuesday.

Pick up coloring book art, entry form and additional instructions at ITT. There will be one prize winner for three age categories: ages 3-5, ages 6-8 and ages 9-12.

The four-day Park Hopper allows admission to Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom Park.

For more information call ITT at 884-7848/5699 or 581-0469.



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Send article submissions to
commando@hurlburt.af.mil

Customs and courtesies

According to AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel* all Airmen must present the proper military image as stated below.

Body piercings or modifications are prohibited, if it is intentional and results in a visible, physical effect that detracts from a professional military image. Failure to observe these mandatory provisions and prohibitions by active duty Air Force members, USAFR members on active duty or inactive duty for training and ANG members in Federal service is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). See note 1.

While in uniform, members are prohibited from attaching, affixing or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (includes visible through the uniform). Exception: Women are authorized to wear one small spherical, conservative, diamond, gold, white pearl or silver pierced or clip earring per earlobe. Matching earrings must be worn and should fit tightly without extending below the earlobe (Exception: Connecting band on clip earrings).

For civilian attire: (1) Official Duty: Members are prohibited from attaching, affixing or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (includes visible through clothing). Exception: Women are authorized to wear one small spherical, conservative, diamond, gold, white pearl or silver pierced or clip earring per earlobe. Matching earrings must be worn and should fit tightly without extending below the earlobe. (Exception: Connecting band on clip earrings) (See notes 2 and 4).

(2) Off Duty on a military installation: Members are prohibited from attaching, affixing or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (includes visible through clothing). Piercing of earlobes by women is allowed, but should not be extreme or excessive. The type and style of earrings worn by women on a military installation should be conservative and kept within sensible limits. Failure to observe these mandatory provisions and prohibitions by active duty Air Force members, USAFR members on active duty or inactive duty for training and ANG members in Federal service is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). (See notes 2 and 4)

Tattoos/brands anywhere on the body that are obscene, advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination are prohibited in and out of uniform. Tattoos/brands that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or that are of a nature that tends to bring discredit upon the Air Force are prohibited in and out of uniform. Unauthorized (content): Any member obtaining unauthorized tattoos will be required to remove them at his/her own expense. Using uniform items to cover unauthorized tattoos is not an option. Members failing to remove or alter unauthorized tattoos in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action or involuntary separation. Failure to observe these mandatory provisions and prohibitions by active duty Air Force members, USAFR members on active duty or inactive duty for training and ANG members in Federal service is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Inappropriate (military image): Excessive tattoos/brands will not be exposed or visible (includes visible through the uniform) while in uniform. Excessive is defined as any tattoo/brands that exceed ¼ of the exposed body part and those above the collarbone and readily visible when wearing an open collar uniform. Members should not be allowed to display excessive tattoos that would detract from an appropriate professional image while in uniform.

BODY-B-HEALTHY
COMM/HEALTH FOOD
555402
3 X 2.50

HOLIDAY BUILDERS
COMM/164 HOLLEY
555749
3 X 7.50

OWCC
COMM/UPWARD BOUN
556102
3 X 3.00

ARMED FORCES COMM INC
COMM/ANCHORMAN
554727
3 X 7.00

Taking care of their own, Airmen donate millions

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force people are giving more than \$6.7 million to this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign – \$800,000 more than last year.

The fund raises money for four Air Force-related charities that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families.

"The 2004 campaign raised more money than any other since 1989, when we had twice as many people in the Air Force," said John Lowrance, project officer for the AFAF campaign.

"The generous gifts donated by our active-duty, Guard, Reserve and retired members shows a real appreciation for the help these charities provide our Air Force family," he said.

This year's campaign was helped by 18,000 new contributors. About 71 percent of

donations are designated for the Air Force Aid Society, the largest of the four charities said Mr. Lowrance.

"It's great news that this year's AFAF campaign was the most successful in years, and as a result, lots of Airmen and their families will benefit from these generous contributions," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society's chief executive officer. "Once again, it proves that Gen. Hap Arnold's 'Airmen-helping-Airmen' philosophy lives on in today's Air Force."

Airmen are asked during the campaign to contribute to one or more AFAF charities through cash, check or payroll deduction.

The charities include the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Foundation, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. **(AFPC)**

Thrift Savings Plan begins toll-free service

WASHINGTON – A toll-free telephone service for Thrift Savings Plan participants and beneficiaries started Thursday.

Callers will be able to receive TSP account or transaction information via the service daily around the clock. They'll also be able to speak to a participant service representative at one of two call centers 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The retirement savings plan is for federal employees and similar to the 401(k) plans offered by many private employers.

As of May 31, TSP assets totaled more than \$135 billion, and retirement savings accounts were being maintained for nearly 3.3 million participants. Participants include federal civilian employees in all branches of government, employees of the U.S. Postal Service and members of the uniformed services.

For calls from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the primary toll-free number will be (877) 968-3778, and the TDD number for the hearing impaired will be (877) 847-4385. The current number (504) 255-8777 can be used for all other international calls.

Fill out a
Hometown News Release

For more information, call Public Affairs at 884-7464

Sounding off for liberty's sake

Hurlburt Field hosts Sound of Independence

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Despite the heat of the blazing July sun, thousands celebrated America's freedom with an early birthday celebration at the Soundside July 2.

Brimming with live entertainment, food, games and fireworks, the Soundside kept guests coming from noon to 10 p.m.

"It was the biggest turnout we've had yet," said Chuck Lowry, 16th Services Squadron. "People are estimating more than 20,000 guests showed that day."

Hundreds of volunteers, squadrons and vendors contributed to the family fun by operating more than 50 eye-catching booths.

Families from all around enjoyed visiting the large number of booths that had everything from hot dogs and hamburgers to hot sauce and face painting.

To attract the young at heart were the petting zoo, rock climbing wall and several new inflatable games, including a new addition called the Barrel Roll.

Boys and girls also gathered in center court to participate in the annual hula-hoop contest, in which each contestant received an Uncle Sam top hat.

Throughout the day, live bands performed on stage to keep guests thoroughly entertained, as they played a wide array of music genres.

Guest bands included the Siren, the Fabulous Five and returning radio station disc jockey, DJ Dave.

"I loved seeing my children enjoy

the music and dancing," said Nancy Langford, wife of Staff Sgt. Derrick Langford, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, as she watched son, Shay Langford, dance in circles.

"I also enjoyed seeing all the men and women in uniform (because it reminded me of their service to our nation),"she said.

Closing into the evening, many gathered near the water and on the dock, to watch approximately 15 participating squadrons race their unique renditions of watercrafts in the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta.

This year, the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron "Head Hunters" took first place and best dressed, the 16th Communications Squadron "Ship Upright" placed second and the 16th Medical Group "Sunken Dreams" trailed in third, Mr. Lowry said.

To keep with military tradition, the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard did a presentation of the colors in center court before Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, said a few words of thanks.

"Every time I hear that music or see the flag raised, the hairs on the back of my neck stand up," Colonel Mannon said. "It's a reminder of the people serving our nation making our freedom possible. Thank you to all who wear the uniform and serve in harm's way. Your nation appreciates your support."

Following an echoing round of applause, guests swarmed to front stage to receive an American flag for the Flag Waving Parade.

Following the parade, returning lumberjack guest, Lee LaCaptain with Web Beckstead and brother, Jordan Beckstead, invited guests to the beachside bleachers for a half-hour show with a mix of lumberjack humor and skills contests.

"Usually the commanders compete in a log rolling contest at the close of the show. However, last

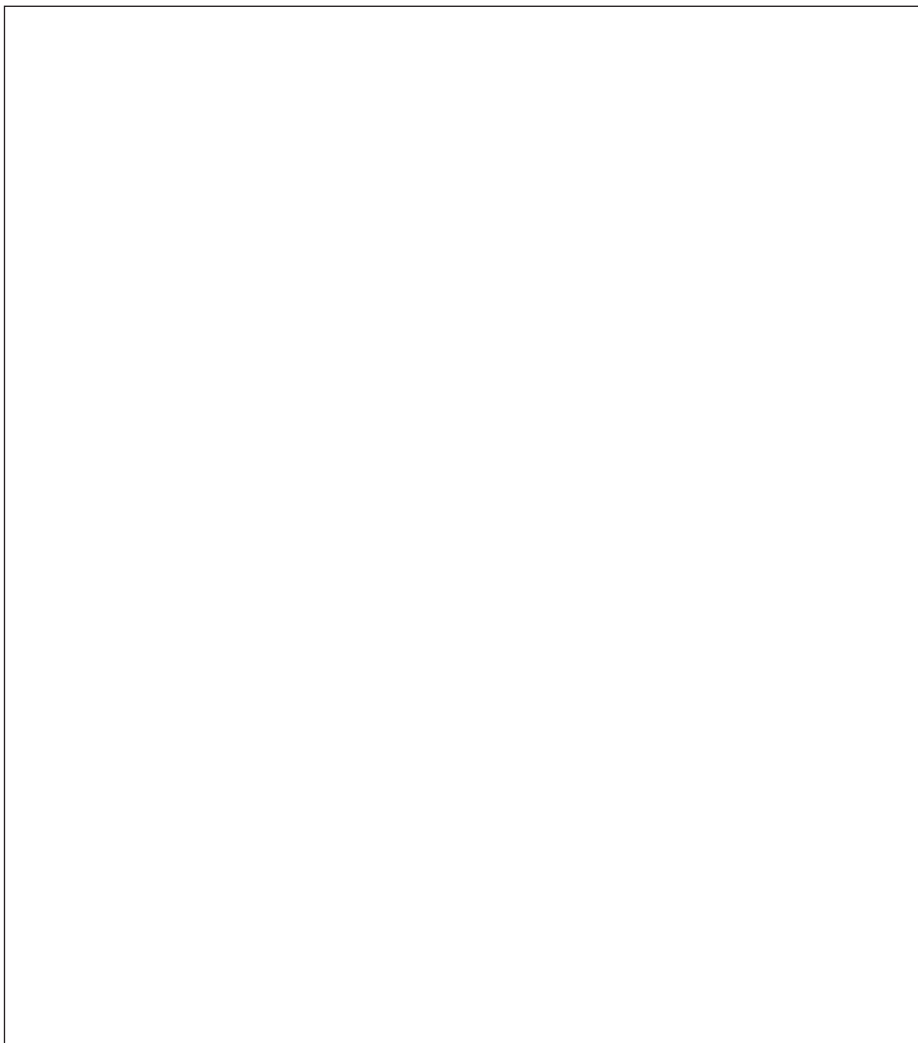


Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Staff Sgt. Rick Riker, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, holds two-year-old Sebastian Riker, while feeding a goat at the Sound of Independence petting zoo.

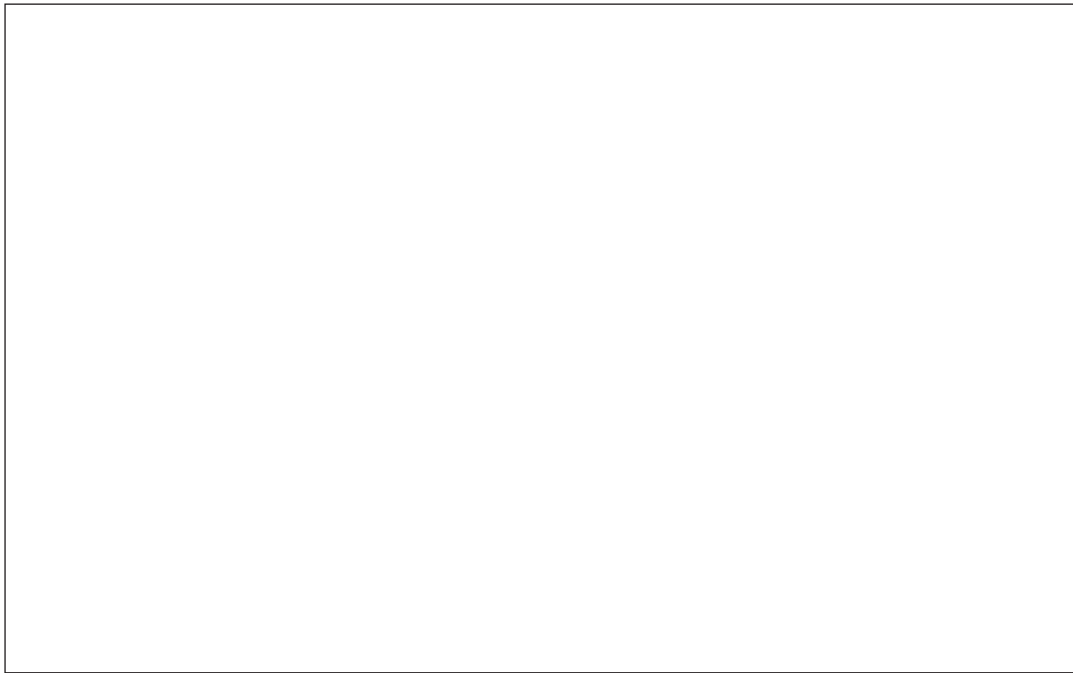


Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

Lumberjacks Jordan Beckstead (left), and Web Beckstead (right) with the handsaw, race Lee LaCaptain (center) with the chainsaw, in a sawing competition to cut through the log first.

year there were a few injuries.

"Therefore, Colonel Mannon cancelled participation this year because he didn't want any of his O-6's getting hurt," Mr. Lowry continued.

The 16th Services Squadron wrapped up the day with a luminous fireworks display that lit up the blackened sky.

"It was the best year yet for fireworks," Mr. Lowry said.

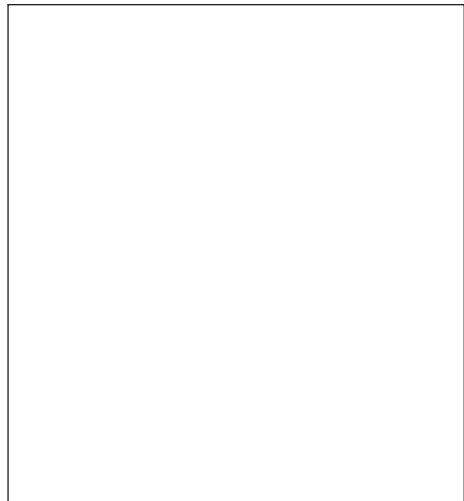


Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

The top three boys battle it out in the over age 8 hula hooping contest.

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TEMPO, Continued from Page 2

power study is under way in which Colonel Mannon is looking at our Ops Tempo over the last two years – all the way from total number of hours personnel deployed, to a breakdown of actual personnel deployed, by Air Force Specialty Code.

The WCA survey results are another form of factual evidence in which your voices are being heard, listened to, and action is being taken.

While these improvements play out, what can we do in the meantime? I submit to you three separate groups who have different responsibilities in combating stress and warp-speed Ops Tempo.

First, the individual. If you as an individual are feeling the stress of deployments, high Ops Tempo at home-station, stress with family life, etc., it's your responsibility to elevate those concerns to your supervisor, and above if necessary.

Secondly, the supervisor. It's the supervisor's responsibility to know their troops. If they don't, they're failing. Additionally, supervisors need to address concerns, as they become known.

Third, the commanders. Commanders need to be in-tuned to the stresses going on with the personnel in their unit, and must be committed to improving the overall health and welfare of every member under their command.

Everyone in this wing should take heart because it's that mentality, "committed to improving" that the wing commander is focused on, 100 percent. He's calling on leadership at all levels to follow his vision of improving this wing.

CHANGE, Continued from Page 1

mands. The command has approximately 850 active duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and civilian professionals.

Colonel Rodriguez, a Hempstead, N.Y. native, began his career as an aircraft maintenance officer and volunteered to join the ranks of the highly skilled, Combat Controller as a young captain. His most recent assignment was commander of the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C. from June 2001 to July 2004.

"I'm so happy this day has finally come," Colonel Rodriguez said. "I'm awed by the opportunity to serve as your commander."

Colonel Rodriguez acknowledged the hard work of the men and women of the 720th, but asked them to remember what their priorities should be.

"I know the men and women of the 720th have fought long and hard especially since 9/11. But, I want you to keep our priorities in mind – the mission, which is to destroy the enemy threat, and protect our people and our families."

Colonel Rodriguez is no stranger to Hurlburt Field; he served here from July 1997 to July 1999 as the 23rd STS commander. During his tour, the unit participated in several contingencies and rescues including Operations Desert Thunder and Desert Fox in Southwest Asia; Operations Joint Guard, Deliberate Forge and Allied Force in the Balkans; plus Hurricane Mitch humanitarian relief efforts in Central America.

In July 1999, he was assigned to the Pentagon where he served as Special Tactics Resource Manager and the Air Force Parachuting Program Manager in the U. S. Air Force Special Operations Division. Subsequently, he served as deputy chief of the Special Operations Division until June 2001.

Colonel Rodriguez said he'd cherish each day that he's a part of the 720th STG and thanked Colonel Rith for his guidance and leadership of such a magnificent group.

Colonel Rith, who retires soon, said he had a difficult time deciding what to say at the ceremony, but he thanked the group for what they've accomplished over the years and recognized that they are the best at what they do.

"Today Special Tactics Airmen are the best trained and are the only ones who do what they do," Colonel Rith said. "As they say, 'imitation is the best form of flattery,' but unfortunately, no one comes close."

Community

Munch and Mend

All Airmen are invited to attend Munch and Mend Monday at the base chapel from 5 to 7 p.m. Airmen will enjoy a free dinner while having minor repairs done on one article of clean clothing. Repairs include having stripes, patches or name tags sewn on to a military uniform. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371.

Chapter 567 meeting

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 567 will hold a general membership meeting Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821 or Senior Master Sgt. Bill Ogden at 884-4957.

Ticket office

Hurlburt Field's Commercial Ticket Office Bay Area Travel is changing its computer system during July 16 - 29.

During this time, travel reservations can't be processed through the Defense Travel System.

Tickets for DTS generated orders for travel between July 16 - 29 must be ticketed by the ticket office by the close of business Thursday.

Travel initiated during the down time must be booked outside DTS. However, orders will continue to be processed through DTS with air, lodging and rental car costs entered manually.

The following steps identify how to enter these costs:

- Air is entered in the other trans. screen of the Travel module.

- Lodging is entered in the per diem entitlements screen of the Additional Options module.

- Rental car is entered as commercial auto on the non-mileage screen of the expenses module.

When the change is complete organizational defense travel administrators will be notified to have their organizations resume normal reservation processes.

The current restriction on central billed account reservations will also be terminated.

For more information, call Hurlburt Field Defense Travel Systems Tier 2 Help Desk at 884-5842.

NCO induction ceremony

The Hurlburt Field Chief's Group and the Top Three Council will co-sponsor this year's Senior NCO Induction Ceremony. The event will be held Aug. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Soundside conference center.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Paula Jackson at 884-1233 or Senior Master Sgt. Greg Nabors at 884-4552.

NCOA Meeting

Hurlburt Field's Commando NCO Association Chapter will hold its monthly meeting July 31 at 6 p.m. at J.R. Rockers in the Destination Room.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-5787.

New wing coin

The 16th Special Operations Wing is looking for ideas for the new wing coin. The person with the winning design will receive a three-day pass. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Franklin Hunt at 884-7153.

AF clubs scholarship's

Air Force clubs are giving away \$25,000 in scholarships. There will be six scholarships awarded, with the top prize of \$6,000 for higher education costs. Scholarships will be awarded based on a 500-word essay entitled "What freedom means to me." Essays exceeding 500 words will be disqualified.

Rules and entry forms are available at J.R. Rockers and the Soundside club. and must be submitted by July 15.

Current Air Force Club members and their family members, who have been accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry during the Fall 2004 Term as a part- or full-time student are eligible.

Production auditions

Auditions will be held for Missoula Children's Theater production of "The Frog Prince" Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Base Theater. Those auditioning should arrive promptly and plan to stay for the full two hours. Students from grades 1 to 12 are encouraged to audition.

No advance preparation or experience is necessary to audition.

"The Frog Prince" will be presented July 16 at 7 p.m. and July 17 at 1 p.m. at the base theater. For more information, call the community programmer at 884-2189.

Changes of command

16th Medical Support Squadron

Maj. Paul Skala is scheduled to assume command of the 16th Medical Support Squadron from Lt. Col. John Felins at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Air Park. A reception following the event will be held at the Hurlburt Field Chapel. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will move to the 15th Aircraft Mobility Unit Nosedock.

9th Special Operations Squadron

Lt. Col. Keith Lambert is scheduled to assume command of the 6th Special Operations Squadron from Lt. Col. Gary Morrison today at 1 p.m. in Hangar 422 next to the Climactic Hangar on Eglin Air Force Base. For more information, call Master Sgt. Caruso at 882-5227.

Volunteers needed

The base library is looking for volunteers to help with their "Rocket into Reading" summer program. Volunteers will help with events like:

- "Cosmic Golf" - July 21 at the base theater. Volunteers will help monitor and run goofy golf, frisbee golf and snag golf from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

- "Out of this World Award Party" - July 28 at the Community Park. Volunteers are needed to help set-up the event and run different games and booths.

For more information, and to sign up to volunteer for any of these events, call the volunteer coordinator at 884-1533.

ACA reunion

The Air Commando Association annual reunion is schedule to be held in Fort Walton Beach Oct. 8-10.

The purpose of the ACA was to keep alive the Air Commando spirit, to rekindle comradery of wartime relationships, to honor the dead and the living that participated in our wartime effort and to promote the utilization of low-key peacekeeping activities of Special Operations. For more information on the reunion, call 581-0099.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September - May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise and worship)
11:30 a.m. (traditional)
12:45 p.m. (Gospel)
Religious Education: August - May
Youth and Singles groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday - (R) Troy, starring Brad Pitt and Eric Bana - Set in ancient Greece, Paris, the Prince of Troy, begins an affair with Helen, the Queen of Sparta. King Menelaus takes this as a terrible insult, to him and his brother, Agamemnon, King of the Mycenaeans. Agamemnon unites the populations of Greece to bring Helen back from Troy.

Saturday - (PG-13) Godsend, starring Greg Kinnear and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos - Following the death of their eight-year-old son, Jessie and Paul are befriended by a doctor on the forefront of stem cell research about bringing him back to life through an experimental and illegal cloning process. The experiment is successful, and Adam grows into a healthy and happy young boy, until his eight birthday.

Sunday - (PG-13) Breakin' all the Rules, starring Jamie Foxx and Gabrielle Union - Quincy gets dumped by his fiancée, but he then writes a best-selling book advising guys to avoid heartache by breaking up with their girlfriends before they can get hurt. Quincy's cousin enlists him to break up with his girlfriend for him, but while doing so, Quincy falls for her.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday - (PG) Shrek 2, voices of Mike Myers and Eddie Murphy - Shrek and Fiona return from their honeymoon to find Fiona's parents inviting them to dinner. Fiona's parents anticipate the homecoming of their daughter and her new Prince. But no one could have prepared them for the sight of their new son-in-law.

Saturday - (PG-13) The Day After Tomorrow, starring Dennis Quaid and Jake Gyllenhaal - A climatological disaster ravages the world beyond recognition. As millions of terrified survivors flee the south, Professor Adrian Hall heads to New York City, now a frozen wasteland, in search of his son Sam who may still be alive.

Sunday - (PG-13) Raising Helen, starring Kate Hudson and John Corbett - Helen is living the life she always dreamed of. Her career is on the rise; she spends her days at fashion shows and nights at the hottest clubs. But her carefree lifestyle comes to a screeching halt when her sister and brother-in-law are killed in a car crash, leaving her to care for their three kids.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

Stars and Strikes

"Bowl for the Stars and Strikes" is an Air Force Services-wide summer program at the Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center. Customers earn rewards by collecting punches on three levels of punch cards: red, white and blue. Punches are given for every game bowled or 32 ounce fountain beverage purchased at the Spare Time Grill now through Aug. 31. For every 15 punches, bowlers and non-bowlers alike will receive the corresponding reward for that level, while supplies last. For more information or to enter without making a purchase, call the bowling center at 884-6941.

November getaway cruises

Information, Tickets and Travel can help you "getaway" before or during Thanksgiving with two great cruises to the western Caribbean. The Pre-Thanksgiving Cruise sails out of New Orleans for seven days from Nov. 14 to 21. Rates are \$545 for interior rooms, \$695 for oceanview rooms and \$845 for rooms with a balcony.

The Thanksgiving cruise sails out of Mobile, Ala. for five days from Nov. 22 to 27. Rates for oceanview rooms are now \$445. For more information, call ITT at 884-7848/5699.

Library summer program

In celebration of the 35th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon, the base library presents "Rocket into Reading." Children are invited to participate in the program each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the base theater. Free tickets are available at the library one week prior to each show. Weekly story hour at the library is at 10 a.m. every Thursday. For more information, call 884-6266.

Hispanic Heritage Month

The Military Equal Opportunity office is seeking a chairperson to help organize, prepare and support Hispanic Heritage Month events from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Dexter Coburn at 884-2631.

Native American History Month

The Native American History Month is Nov. 1 – 30. The Military Equal Opportunity office is inviting volunteers to assist in organizing, preparation, and supporting the observance period. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Dexter Coburn 884-2631.

Latin America Orientation

The Joint Special Operations University will hold a Latin America Orientation Course July 19-23. The course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the Latin American region. The course provides non-technical education on the cultural, historical, political, economic, social, religious, and security dynamics in this area. For more information, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731.

Seminar method

The Air Command and Staff College Nonresident Program is enrolling eligible officers and federal employees for the new 2004-2005 Seminar method. Seminar classes usually meet weekly, starting in early August and running until mid-June.

ACSC programs are offered to active-duty, non-extended active-duty, Reserve, National Guard and major selects and above service members in all U.S. military services; federal civilian employees and GS-11 and above or equivalent, civil air patrol officers in the grade of major and above, and international officers serving with the U.S. Air Force in education, training, exchange, or liaison roles are eligible. International officers may also enroll through the Foreign Military Sales training sponsorship program.

People must enroll online no later than July 18 to receive their books in time.

If interested, register online, at <http://www.au.af.au/acsc/Distance%20Learning/distance-learning.htm>.

For more information, call LaRue Hamilton or Jannie Benson at 884-6724.

Classes

Boating safety

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 18 of Niceville is scheduled to conduct a boating safety course Saturday at the Okaloosa-Walton College Learning Resource Center Room 128 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$40, which includes course book and materials. The course is open to all interested in boating activities; registration is limited. For course enrollment and information, call Chris Dewey at 582-0366.

Southern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University is offering a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. With 16 required courses, individuals can complete their degree in 16 months. Courses are held in alternating weekends from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840.

Interpersonal Dynamics

The University of Oklahoma is offering a new innovative Interpersonal Dynamics course Aug. 9 – 15. This one week course explores effective communication techniques, which apply to personal interactions and studies gender, cultural and family differences. For more information, e-mail aphurlburt@ou.edu.

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following health and wellness center classes or for information, call 884-4292. All classes are free of charge and held in Building 90232.

Healthy Living Workshop – Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Diabetic Nutrition – Monday, 9 a.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Lean on me – Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

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AMXS 2 hoses down CES 2 in huge 12-2 win

By Airman James Dickens
Public Affairs

The 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron extinguished the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters 12-2 Tuesday.

16th AMXS 2 got the easy win with some good batting and a little help from CES 2.

"The guys started off strong batting in four runs in the first inning and they never slowed down after that," said Robert Register, 16th AMXS coach.

"The other team did better than us at the plate, we made some mistakes, but that's how softball goes," said Ken Longueuil, 16th CES.

"It seems like they always play well until

there are cameras around," laughed a spouse of a CES 2 player. "I think it has something to do with the fact that they have to buy their shop pizza when they get in the paper, so you better not get my husband in the paper!"

With the bases loaded in the top of the third inning and only one out, the firefighters looked like they might make a comeback. AMXS 2 ended that really quick though after turning a double play.

When AMXS 2 stepped up the plate in the bottom of the third inning they sealed the game. They batted in six runs to bring their lead to eight at 10-2.

AMXS 2 would score two more runs and keep CES 2 scoreless to end the game 12-2.

"I'm proud of the team. They've worked hard and played well all season long," Register said.

Aaron Grindland smashes a double to knock in one of only two runs the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron 2 scored.

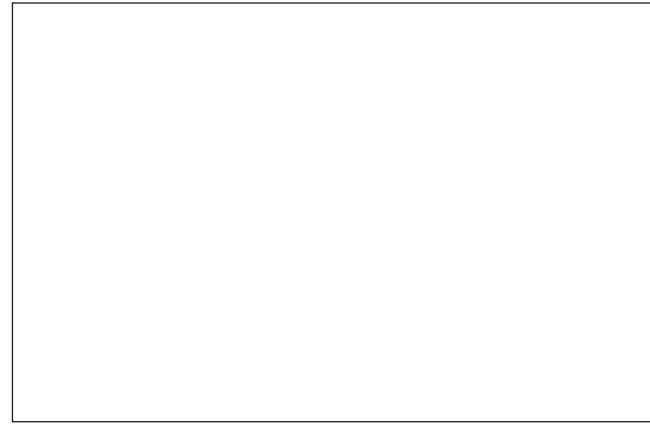


Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

Greg Brodbeck, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (top), snags a high throw and tries to tag out Aaron Grindland, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, as he dives back to second base. (bottom) Robert Wadley, 16th AMXS, stretches out to try to get the out on Justin Talbot, 16th CES.



Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

Sports shorts

Youth skateboard camp

The youth center announces Skateboard Camp for kids ages 10-16, Monday through July 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the skatepark located at the Community Park. Participants will learn basic skills, newest techniques and safety measures of skateboarding and/or rollerblading on obstacles.

Register at the youth center and bring \$20 refundable deposit to guarantee commitment. For more information, call the youth center at 884-6355.

Coaches clinic

National Youth Sports Coaches Association will be conducting a coaches clinic for the upcoming soccer and flag football seasons Aug. 3 at 5 p.m. and Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the youth center. Prior to these clinic dates, please pick up the

coach background information packages at the youth center. For more information, call the youth center at 884-6355.

Football, soccer registration

Flag football and soccer registration continues through July 30. Seasons kick off Sept. 18 through Nov. 20. Registration fees correspond with the registration period. Early registration began Thursday and continues through July 16 at \$37 per youth or \$74 for two or more. Regular registration is July 19-30 at \$42 per youth or \$84 for two or more. Late registration is after July 30 at \$47 per youth or \$94 for two or more. For more information or to get the registration form, call the youth center at 884-6355.

Cheerleading registration

Cheerleading registration runs through July

30 for children ages 6 to 14. Cost is \$5 per child. Each participant must have a sports physical on file at the youth center. A coach/parent meeting is currently scheduled for Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. at the youth center. Also at the meeting, uniform measurements and a \$30 deposit will be required. For more information or to get registration form, call the youth center at 884-6355.

Softball tournament

The Commando Softball Post-season Intramural Tournament will be held July 17 at the base fields. Entry fee is \$125. Bring your own .47 cor ball to hit.

It's double elimination format using American Softball Association intramural rules; Entry deadline is Thursday. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774 or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.